

The invention claimed is:

1. A system for providing environmental context information for use with onboard vehicle devices, said system comprising:
 - an input for accessing and receiving context information;
 - an identifier for identifying context information related to the environment as environmental context information;
 - a data storage device having memory for storing the identified environmental context information;
 - an interface for communicating the data storage device with a plurality of onboard vehicle devices; and
 - an agent for downloading environmental context information to one or more of the vehicle devices.
2. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the stored environmental context information comprises an address pointer that indicate the source of the environmental context information.
3. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the input receives the environmental context information from at least one of an off-board service provider and a vehicle centric system.
4. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the interface comprises a wireless interface.
5. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the plurality of vehicle devices comprises a vehicle control module and a navigation device.
6. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the environmental context information comprises weather information.
7. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the environmental context information comprises vehicle travel condition information.

8. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the data storage device is portable.
9. A method of providing environmental context information for use with onboard vehicle devices, said method comprising the steps of:
 - monitoring information from one or more sources;
 - identifying information related to the environment as environmental context information;
 - storing the identified environmental context information in memory;
 - communicating with an onboard vehicle device; and
 - downloading at least some of the stored environmental context information to the vehicle device.
10. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of storing the identified environmental context information comprises storing in memory an address pointer indicative of the source of the environmental context information.
11. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of monitoring information from one or more sources comprises monitoring the information from at least one of an off-board service provider and a vehicle centric system.
12. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of communicating with an onboard vehicle device comprises communicating with a plurality of devices comprising a vehicle control module and a navigation device.
13. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the environmental context information comprises weather information.
14. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the environmental context information comprises vehicle travel condition information.
15. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of communicating with the onboard vehicle device comprises wireless communication.

16. The method as defined in claim 9 further comprising the step of transporting the memory as a portable memory device.